

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium comprising a non-magnetic substrate having a front side and a back side, at least one lower support layer formed over the front side and at least one magnetic upper layer formed over said at least one lower layer, said magnetic upper layer comprising magnetic pigment particles having an average length of less than about 75 nanometers, and a binder system therefor, said lower support layer comprising a pigment combination having a pigment weight ratio of from about 84% to about 92% alpha iron oxide, from about 1 to about 10 parts alumina per hundred parts alpha iron oxide by weight, and from about 3 parts to about 15 parts carbon black per hundred parts alpha iron oxide by weight, wherein the magnetic recording medium exhibits a resistivity of no more than about 1×10^9 ohms/square.
2. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said lower support layer comprises from about 6 parts to about 15 parts carbon black per hundred parts alpha iron oxide by weight.
3. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said support layer comprises an aluminum oxide in said pigment combination.
4. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said resistivity is from about 10^4 ohms/sq to about 10^9 ohms/sq.
5. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said lower support layer further comprises a binder system for said pigment combination.

6. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said binder system comprises a hard resin component and a soft resin component.

7. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the hard resin has a Tg of greater than about 70°C.

8. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein the soft resin has a Tg of less than about 68°C.

9. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said soft resin component is a polyurethane resin.

10. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said hard resin component is a vinyl chloride resin.

11. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said hard resin component is a non-halogenated vinyl resin.

12. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said lower layer further includes a fatty acid ester lubricant and a fatty acid lubricant.

13. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 12, wherein said fatty acid lubricant comprises a stearic acid.

14. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 13, wherein said stearic acid is at least about 90% pure.

15. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said topmost magnetic layer has a thickness of from about 0.025 micron to about 0.25 micron.

16. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said primary magnetic pigment particles have a coercivity of at least about 2000 Oersteds.

17. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 16, wherein said primary magnetic pigment particles have a coercivity of at least about 2300 Oersteds.

18. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said binder system for said primary magnetic particles in said magnetic upper layer comprises a hard resin component and a soft resin component.

19. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 18, wherein the hard resin has a Tg of greater than about 70°C.

20. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 18, wherein the soft resin has a Tg of less than about 68°C.

21. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 18, wherein said soft resin component is a polyurethane resin, and said hard resin component is a vinyl chloride resin.

22. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 18, wherein said hard resin component is a non-halogenated vinyl resin.

23. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording layer further comprises a large carbon particle material.

24. A dual layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the upper layer comprises a primary ferromagnetic pigment, aluminum oxide, a spherical large particle carbon material, a polyurethane binder, a vinyl chloride binder, a hardener, a fatty acid ester lubricant, and a fatty acid lubricant.

25. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a back coat coated on said back side of said substrate.

26. A dual-layer magnetic recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the back coat includes a carbon black pigment, a urethane binder, and at least one compound selected from phenoxy resin and nitrocellulose.

27. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the backcoat further comprises carbon black, and a metal oxide selected from titanium dioxide, aluminum oxide and a mixture thereof.